

what is going on there and what existed before. This is actually what the first lady talked about when she was talking about the new hospital we want to build in Basra. Decades ago Iraq had one of the strongest systems. But here are some of the stories.

Mothers tell stories of watching their children die because doctors do not have a small enough tube to give them oxygen. When parents bring their children to the hospital, they must also bring food, bedding and clothing, even their own blood supply. Under Saddam Hussein, one in eight children died before the age of 5. One in three was malnourished. Infant and child mortality rates doubled in 10 years while low birth weights increased from 4.5 percent to 30 percent. Today, infant mortality rates, and this is when the coalition came in, infant mortality rates in Iraq are similar to those in much less developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The prevalence of leukemia has also increased dramatically in the past decade and continues to grow at an alarming rate. Children in the United States with leukemia have a 90 percent survival rate.

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In Iraq, the rate is less than 10 percent. Saddam took care of himself, his family, and a core group of Baathists, but other than that, the country just totally slid. And those folks received very little health care, very few benefits from the government.

Mr. Speaker, I will yield to my colleague.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I just remember when my colleague first returned from Baghdad, he shared with a number of us, his colleagues, video footage of Baghdad as a bustling city, a very modern city, which it was. And the reason we went to Basra the first day was because Ambassador Bremer and other officials were locked in round-the-clock negotiations over the constitution. So they sent us as the first delegation of American Congressmen to Basra.

I have to tell you that going from Basra, which is like a Third World country, I mean it is ravaged not by war, it is ravaged by 30 years of neglect and tyranny by Saddam Hussein who refused to, even though billions of dollars were flowing from the Oil for Food program into his regime, and he was building more and more palaces, these monuments to his own greatness with marble floors and crystal chandeliers the size of minivans hanging from the hallway ceilings, but then go to Basra, and there is ramshackle dirt buildings falling down, roads in disrepair, sewers in disrepair, it demonstrated to me that contrast more than anything between the bustling city of Saddam Hussein to a city under the control of Basra, the Shiite population, the mendacity of this regime and the self-indulgence and evil of this regime letting so many people live in poverty while they live in sinful opulence.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for bringing it up. It reinforces the amount of work that needs to be done there: Getting a constitution, establishing a law, getting the police force in place, getting the judiciary, getting government institutions in place, and then also practicing the art of representative government.

But there is no doubt that I believe the people of Iraq are thankful that we are there, that we are making progress in that. And we have talked about the people in Iraq that my colleague and I have personally had the opportunity to meet. We have talked about our second hand accounts that are told to us by our troops who are interacting with the Iraqi folks on a daily basis.

Then there is one other level that I just want to get to before we run out of time, and that is before I went to Iraq the last time we spent a day in Libya. And for those who do not believe that we are making progress in the war on terrorism, there are a lot of folks who are believing that we are not winning or making progress in the war on terror, or that we are not serious about it, Muammar Qaddafi, Colonel Qaddafi believes that we are making progress, that we are serious about winning this war on terrorism.

The changes that have happened in Libya are dramatic, going from somebody who had a weapons of mass destruction program, a nuclear program all under development, all secret, to where we are today, fully exposing it, telling us not only what he has, but how he got it and these types of things.

We do not fully understand exactly why, but I do not doubt that there is some relationship to what we did in Iraq and where we said we are going to be focusing on, a war on terrorism, focused on it like a laser, we are going to go after it, and however he got to where he is and however Libya got to where they are today, we ought to be thankful that in this element of the war of terrorism, we have made that much progress in a very short period of time.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. This photograph illustrates a brief meeting that we had with Ambassador Paul Bremer across the hallway from the negotiations over the constitution. My colleague spoke of the long work we have ahead. There is a new interim Constitution, which is a radical document in the Middle East, people have basic Bill of Rights freedoms in this ancient land for the first time ever in their history. In this picture actually appears the draft of that interim constitution that Ambassador Bremer calls it.

If we will stay the course, not only will we see the changes and the repentance that we have seen of Colonel Qaddafi, but I believe we are going to see the transformation of the society of Iraq as an Islamic country in their own form of democracy and freedom and a society built on rights that will trans-

form that part of the world for our children and grandchildren and for the children and grandchildren of the good people of Iraq.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt we are making progress. I want to read a couple of quotes from a speech that we heard in Libya. And if it becomes the role for the Middle East, we will have made great progress. Think about this quote. This is one of the Libyan parliamentarians. "I believe God created man on this earth. Therefore, they have natural needs and natural rights. These are not bestowed by anyone else and they cannot be taken away by men." This is in Libya.

Now, think if they move that that direction. "Every person has the right to develop to their full potential to live in peace, security and prosperity." "How can you enslave people who are born free?"

There is something that is inside of all of us that we recognize these types of rights as being basic rights. And as we help bring those rights to Libya, as we help bring and foster those rights in Afghanistan and Iraq, we do not light the spark or the flame in these peoples, we give the flame the opportunity to grow and flourish. It is there. That is something that is in all of us, the right to be free, to be secure. And what we are doing is we are giving them the right to do that. But we also, at the same time, recognize the difficulty and also the number of people who want to extinguish that flame and enslave these people one more time just like Saddam did.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time. I thank my colleague for joining me today.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 98. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, once again it is a wonderful day to be here in the House and share not only with my colleagues, but with American people, the issues that are facing not only our economy but our children's future.

I guess I would have to start, since this is budget time and as we are here on the floor simultaneously, the Committee on the Budget is meeting to try to work out this \$2.4 trillion budget